MINISTAR OWNERS MANUAL

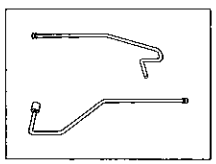
Thanks for purchasing your new MINISTAR guitar or bass. With the use of this manual, you can easily understand each and every component of your instrument, and with a little extra time, you can make it play as good as the "best playing guitar or bass in the world!"

MINISTAR ASSEMBLY

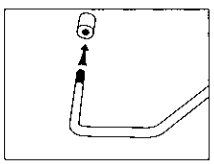
Remove the 2 long metal rods from the compartment located on the side of the included carrying bag. Every MINISTAR comes with a block of wood that fits on the long rod with the "U" shaped bend. Unscrew the strap button from this rod, and slide the wooden block onto the rod. This may require some force. Think of this block as the "worn" place on the face of any old guitar. It provides a place to rest your right forearm on when playing, and also serves to steady the instrument. Thread the strap button back on the rod and snug into position. This block will be left on the rod from now on.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

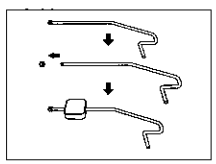
Remove the knurled nut from the arm with the 90 degree angle bend. This end goes into the front hole (toward the bridge) on the under side next to the output jack. Slide this rod into the hole until it is seated in the groove on the bottom side with the arm extending toward the headstock end. Now insert the "U" bend end of the other rod into the rear hole located on the top side. Make sure it is seated into the groove running toward the rear of the body. Thread the knurled knob onto the end of the rod extending from the top and tighten. The bottom edge of the knurled knob will engage to top of the "U" bend rod, and hold it securely in place. Some models include a smaller rod for playing while sitting. To use this rod, replace the long 90 degree bend rod with this rod. Most players find it is much easier to use the shoulder strap to play when sitting, by shortening the strap.



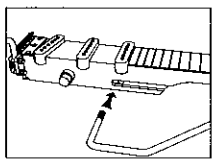
2 long metal rods



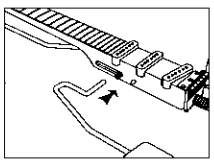
Remove the Knurled nut



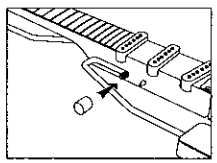
Insert Wood Block



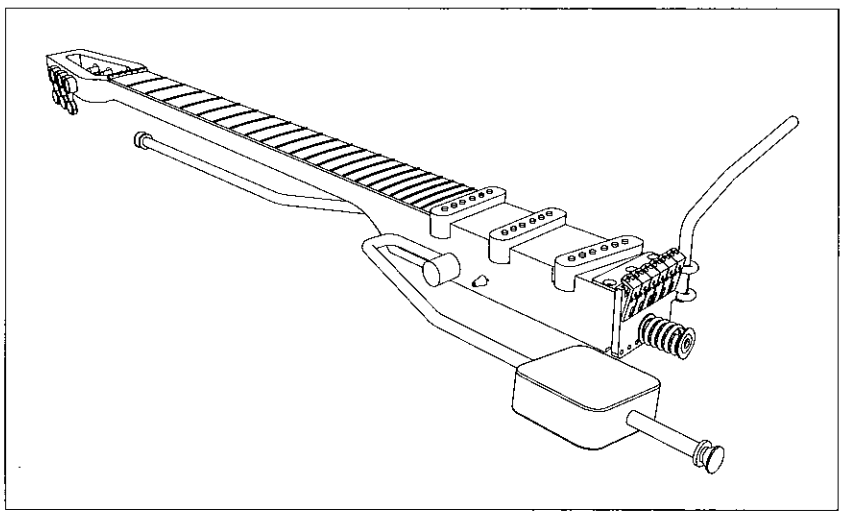
Install the metal rod



Install the metal rod

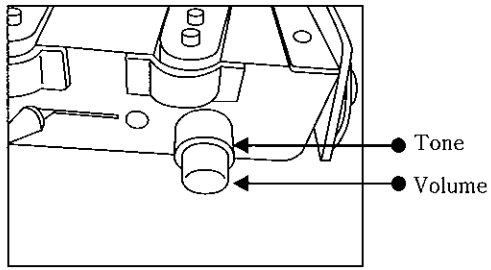


Fix the Knurled nut



VOLUME AND TONE CONTROLS

Your MINISTAR has a "STACKED" volume and tone control. The top or smaller knob is used to adjust the volume, and the lower outside ring is used to adjust the tone.



PICKUP SWITCHES

Depending upon the model, switch(s) are provided to allow selection of the pickup(s) and tonality desired. Here is a description of each model and its pickup switch(s) function.

1. LESTAR has one pickup switch, that allows selection of the rhythm pickup, both pickups, or the lead pickup.
2. TESTAR has two pickup switches, one that allows selection of the rhythm pickup, both pickups, or the lead pickup. The other switch is a phase switch. This functions ONLY when the pickup selector switch is in the center (both pickups on) position. In one position, the phase switch allows both pickups to operate as normal. In the other position, the pickups are made to be "out-of-phase," resulting in the thin, hollow sound associated with many Country and Rock players.
3. CASTAR has one, 5 position switch. In position 1, the neck-rhythm pickup is on. In position 3, the center pickup is on, and in position 5, the lead bridge pickup is on. When in position 2, both pickups 1 and 2 are on together, but out-of-phase. This produces a thin/hollow sound and operates as a hum bucking pickup. When in position 4, both pickups 2 and 3 are on together, but out-of-phase. This produces a thin/hollow but higher frequency sound and again operates as a hum-bucking pickup.
4. 12STAR has one pickup switch. In position 1 it selects the magnetic pickup located next to the end of the fingerboard which operates through the stacked volume and tone controls. In position 3, it activates the piezo pickup that is built into the bridge and operates through the 3 band EQ and its separate volume control. The center switch position 2 allows these 2 distinctly different sound qualities to be blended to your taste.

All other models of MINISTAR feature single pickups without the need for switches.

SCAMP AMP

Each and every MINISTAR features a built-in headphone amplifier. This amplifier has more than adequate power to drive the included earbuds to a high volume level. On guitar models, there is a distortion circuit included with its own separate switch. On bass models, there is an EQ boost switch that increases the low and high frequencies when engaged. To operate the SCAMP AMP, plug the earbuds into the headphone output jack, turn the guitar or bass volume control down, and then push the power off-on switch so that it latches in the down/on position. You may then raise the volume control on the SCAMP AMP to a comfortable level. The volume/tone controls on your MINISTAR will now function as normal, except you will hear the sound through the earbuds. It is also possible to use the SCAMP AMP with earbuds as a monitor when playing onstage.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR 12 STAR

12STAR models require that a standard cord or a "dummy plug" (included) be plugged into the audio output jack for the guitar. This is the only way the 3 band EQ/TUNER can be turned on. The EQ/TUNER must be on to allow sound to pass to the SCAMP AMP.

BATTERIES

The batteries for your SCAMP AMP are hearing aid batteries, which can be found at any local pharmacy and some "dollar" stores. If you use type #357 or LR44 batteries, expect about 10 hours of continuous use. If you use hearing aid "zinc-air" batteries #675, expect over 100 hours of continuous use. Zinc-air batteries have a shelf life of about 2 weeks once they are activated. To replace the batteries, open the battery door located on the front of the SCAMP AMP, remove the 4 used batteries, (observing their orientation) and replace with the fresh batteries.

BE SURE THAT THE NEW BATTERIES ARE INSTALLED IN THE CORRECT DIRECTION!

3 BAND EQ AND TUNER

A 3 BAND EQ/TUNER is included on the FOLKSTAR, CLASSTAR, and 12STAR. The TUNER section is also included with the MICROSTAR. To operate the TUNER, turn it on, and pick the string you want to tune in a repeated fashion. Pick the string about every 3 or 4 seconds. The display will show which note the string is currently tuned to, and an LED to the left or right of the display will show whether the note is flat or sharp from this note. Once the note is perfectly in tune with the one shone in the display, the LED centered above the displayed note will light.

The 3 BAND EQ allows the tonal quality of the instrument to be adjusted to taste. The 3 ranges are LOW, MID, and HIGH frequencies. Slide these controls to achieve the desired sound quality.

BATTERY LOCATION FOR FOLKSTAR, CLASSTAR, AND 12STAR

The 3 BAND EQ/TUNER is operated by a separate 9 volt battery. This battery is located beneath the front plate on the FOLKSTAR, CLASSTAR, and 12STAR. To replace it, remove the 4 or 6 screws securing this plate, pull the old battery out, and un-snap it from the connector. Snap the new battery onto the connector, re-insert it into position, and replace the front plate using the 4 or 6 screws. This battery is automatically turned on whenever a signal cord or dummy plug is inserted in the output jack. For best battery life, disconnect signal cord or dummy plug when not in use.

ADJUSTING THE ACTION

The MINISTAR guitars and basses have the ability to set the action to the exact playing condition you desire. No guitar can possibly play better. As we like to say, "MINISTAR GUITARS and BASSES play as Good as MOTHER NATURE will allow."
If you follow the steps outlined below, you can quickly and easily set the playability of your MINISTAR to your liking.

1. ADJUSTING THE NECK TENSION ROD

Use the little finger of your left hand and the little finger of your right hand to push the 1st string down at the 1st fret and the highest fret. This makes the 1st string become a perfectly straight line to use for setting up the action. Now, push the 1st string down toward the top of the 12th fret. If there is more than 1/32nd movement, the neck rod needs to be tightened. Insert the neck rod hex wrench into the adjustment nut (located beneath the adjustable nut plate at the headstock end of the neck.) To tighten the rod, use a clockwise turning action. The tighter the rod, the closer the distance from the string to the 12th fret will become. You do not want a perfectly flat neck, as strings vibrate in a parabolic shape. A perfectly flat neck will allow the string to hit the frets between the fingered position and the bridge. A slight curve is what you are looking for. If the strings hit the neck when held at the 1st and highest fret, the tension rod must be loosened. To do this, turn the tension adjust rod in a counter-clockwise direction. Once the neck curvature provides a clearance of about 1/32nd of an inch, you can now move on to the next step.

2. ADJUSTING THE BRIDGE AND VIBRATO

Your new MINISTAR features a bridge that has a unique saddle design. Using the 5 allen screws on each individual saddle, you can set the height, length, and spacing for each individual string, and then lock it into position. Unlike other adjustable bridge saddles, this entire assembly can be adjusted and then tightened to make the bridge into one solid mass, free of any buzzes or rattles that can rob sustain as with conventional designs. Loosen the larger allen screw at the base of the saddle of the string you wish to adjust. Now, using the 4 small allen screws, you are free to raise, lower, increase or shorten the length (intonation,) and set the spacing for each specific string to your preference.

* To set the intonation, compare the string pitch harmonic at the 12th fret to the fretted note produced when holding the string down at the 12th fret. If the fretted note is higher in pitch, the string must be lengthened by moving the saddle away from the headstock end. If the fretted note is lower in pitch, the saddle must be moved toward the headstock end.

Once you are satisfied, snug the large screw, and you can retain the setting with no buzzes or rattles. The Vibrato has an additional screw that goes through the spring and into the body of the guitar. Use this screw to raise or lower the height of the arm, and to lock the bridge assembly if a "hard-tail" is desired. There are 2 "acorn nuts" and "J" hooks that secure the vibrato arm. These J hooks allow you to set the tension of the vibrato arm, from loose (so it swings out of the way) to tight, (so it stays in the last position you used it) and anywhere in between.

3. ADJUSTING THE ADJUSTABLE NUT

Unique to the MINISTAR guitars and basses, is an adjustable nut. This simple design lets you set the height of the strings at the 1st fret. The clearance at the 1st fret should be no more than the clearance obtained from the string to the top of the 2nd fret when the string is held down at the 1st fret. Simply lower the nut using the 2 phillips screws at either side of the plate next to the nut until the strings start to buzz and rattle. Then raise the plate about 1/8th turn and you are done!

TWINSTAR (optional)

Now that you have adjusted your MINISTAR to play as good as a guitar or bass can play, you can let your imagination go wild. Every guitar player has at one time or another wished for a guitar or bass with the versatility offered by a double neck instrument. Normally this is just a dream, as most double necks are expensive, overweight, and don't offer the best potential from each separate instrument. TWINSTAR is a simple rod assembly that allows you to choose any two MINISTAR models, bass and/or guitar, and connect them together to make your dream come true. Guitar and guitar, guitar and bass, acoustic and electric sound, bass and bass, electric and 12 string, which is on top and which is on bottom, etc. the choices are almost endless. Simply slide the model you want on top on the extended rod and tighten into position with the knurled knob that has a hole all the way through. Then place the other model on the lower rod extension, thread on the other knurled knob, and tighten.

* That's it! Total all up weight is between 7 and 10 pounds for any combination, which is well under the weight of some single guitar or bass models from other manufacturers.

For the correct TWINSTAR, please specify if you want guitar on top or bass on top.

STAND UP KIT (optional)

Any model of MINISTAR bass can be quickly and firmly mounted on the optional STAND-UP KIT. This simple design attaches to any BASSTAR, BASSTAR 5, BASSTAR F, and BASSTAR 5F, and lets you play vertically. Included is a looped rod that simulates the outline shape of the upper bout of a standard upright bass. Height is quickly adjustable. The STAND-UP KIT inserts into the same holes used for mounting the standard rods. For the minimum stand-up bass, this is the best choice out there. (not arco capable)

SUMMARY

Every MINISTAR provides you with a great sounding and playing guitar or bass. Sustain, tone quality, comfort, and portability are all second to none. In fact, you can own 2 or 3 MINISTAR models for less than the price of one of the so-called premium guitars, and easily carry them all at the same time.

Warranty

Warrants as follows:

* This MINISTAR product is manufactured under strict quality control and inspection processes, and is guaranteed against defects in manufacturing materials and/or workmanship for a period of 1 year from the date of purchase.

* Failures and damage caused by inappropriate use within the warranty period is not covered.

* Products which have been altered are not covered by this warranty.

* Failure to register this product within 30 days of purchase will void the warranty.

* This Warranty card will not be re-issued. Please keep this card in a safe place along with your original sales receipt.

* Customer must obtain authorization from MINISTAR to return product(s) to the address specified by MINISTAR. The products must be packed in suitable packing that will protect the product against damage during transit. Shipping cost for warranty claims to Ministar must be at the customers expense. MINISTAR will return repaired product(s) freight prepaid to the customer.

* All warranty claims must be handled through the original MINISTAR dealer and/or approved by MINISTAR and/or its authorized agents.

* No other warranties are implied by this registration card.

Product		Warranty Period
Model		
Serial Number		
Date of Purchase	/ / /	until / / /
Buyer Address		
Name		Tel

www.ministarguitars.com

MUSE R&D inc

muse R&D inc. 7-12, Songdo-Dong, Yeonsu-Gu, Incheon, Korea
Tel 032 851 6481~5 Fax 032 851 6488